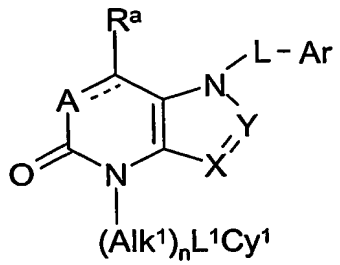
Claims:

1. A compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein:

the dashed line joining A and $C(R^a)$ is present and represents a bond and A is a $-N=$ atom or a $-C(R^b)=$ group, or the dashed line is absent and A is a $-C(R^b)(R^c)-$ or $-N(R^d)-$ group;

R^a, R^b and R^c is each independently a hydrogen or halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, -CN, $-CO_2R^1$ (where R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group) or $-CONR^1R^2$ group (where R^2 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group);

R^d is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group;

X and Y is each a nitrogen atom or a $-C(R^e)=$ or $-C(Alk^2R^e)=$ group [where Alk^2 is an optionally substituted alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene chain and R^e is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a -CN, $-OR^1$, $-CO_2R^1$, $-C(X^a)R^1$ (where X^a is an oxygen or sulphur atom), $-Cy^2$ (where Cy^2 is an optionally substituted, saturated or unsaturated non-aromatic carbocyclic ring optionally containing one or more -O-, -S-, -NH- or $-C(X^a)-$ atoms or groups), $-NR^{1a}R^{2a}$ (where R^{1a} and R^{2a}, which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl or Cy^2 group, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted, saturated or unsaturated cyclicamino ring optionally containing one or more -O- or -S- atoms or -NH- or $-C(X^a)-$ groups), $-C(X^a)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-S(O)_2NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-N(R^{3a})C(X^a)R^1$ (where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group), $-N(R^{3a})C(X^a)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-N(R^{3a})S(O)_2R^1$, $-N[S(O)_2R^1]_2$, $-N(R^{3a})S(O)_2NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-N(R^{3a})C(O)OR^1$, $-N(R^{3a})C(NR^1)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-C(R^1)NOR^2$, $-C(NR^1)NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, $-C(X^a)NR^{1a}OR^{2a}$ or $-C(O)N(R^{3a})NR^{1a}R^{2a}$ group];

L is a -C(O)-, -C(S)- or -C(R^{1f})(R^{1g})- group (where R^{1f} and R^{1g}, which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched C_{1-3}alkyl group optionally substituted by one, two or three fluorine atoms, or R^{1f} and R^{1g} together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cyclopropyl group), or a -CH_2CH_2- group;

n is zero or the integer 1;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group;

Cy^1 is an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group, or is additionally a hydrogen atom when n is the integer 1 and/or L^1 is a linker atom or group; and

Ar is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

provided that the compound of formula (1) is other than 3,7-dibenzyl-3,7-dihydro-2*H*-purinone;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and *N*-oxides thereof.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dashed line joining A and C(R^a) is present and represents a bond and A is a -C(R^b)- group, in which R^a and R^b are as defined in claim 1.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein R^a and R^b are both hydrogen.

4. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein X is a -CH= group.

5. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein Y is a -C(R^e)= group, in which R^e is hydrogen, -CN, -COR^1, -CO_2R^1, -$CONR^{1a}R^{2a}$, -$S(O)_2NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, -$CONR^{1a}OR^{2a}$ or -$C(O)N(R^{3a})NR^{1a}R^{2a}$, and R^1, R^{1a}, R^{2a} and R^{3a} are as defined in claim 1.

6. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein Cy^1 is phenyl, methylphenyl, methoxyphenyl, thienyl or indolyl.

7. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein Ar represents phenyl, fluorophenyl, difluorophenyl, chlorophenyl, dichlorophenyl, (chloro)(fluoro)phenyl, cyanophenyl, methylphenyl, (fluoro)(methyl)phenyl, methoxyphenyl, nitrophenyl, pyridinyl, chlorothienyl or benzothienyl.

8. A compound as claimed in claim 1 as herein specifically disclosed in any one of the Examples.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate or *N*-oxide thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. The use of a compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate or *N*-oxide thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of a disorder for which an inhibitor of p38 kinase is indicated.

11. A method for the treatment and/or prevention of a disorder for which an inhibitor of p38 kinase is indicated, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate or *N*-oxide thereof.